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THE לְפָנַי SHEKEL

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A Collector's Medalllic Rarity

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Evangelists and Masada

Charity Scrip - Paris

Fifth AINA Convention Planned

Clubs Plan Holyland Expo



Published by the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION



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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF A.I.N.A.

THE SHEKEL is the official publication of the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. and will appear six times a year with the purpose of establishing an authoritative source of information and knowledge pertaining to numismatics of Modern and Ancient Israel. *THE SHEKEL* will bring to all numismatists the most current information available with reference to all related numismatic events.

THE SHEKEL will exist only for the benefit of its readers. To further that purpose, it will coordinate the activities of all with the hope that there will be a meaningful interchange of information, views and ideas through its pages.

THE SHEKEL will strive to be informative, interesting, educational and entertaining. To that end, it will endeavor to obtain articles and treatises from leading authorities in the United States, Israel and from other countries.

Finally, *THE SHEKEL* will be of interest not only to advanced collectors and numismatists but also to those just starting out on that delightful path leading to greater understanding and knowledge of Israeli numismatics. The opinion of the authors are not necessarily those of the Association.

THE EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK . . .

This issue details the greatest story of America's Bicentennial: the gift of freedom to political hostages at Entebbe through the bravery of the Israel Air Force and the commandos of the Israeli Army. We are grateful to IGCAM for permission to reproduce this specially commissioned report for the booklet accompanying the Entebbe Medal which all will receive so that the story of this dramatic incident in the history of free people will not be lost in future years. We are pleased to announce at this time the extensive preparations now in progress for the largest Shekel in AINA history: the Tenth Anniversary issue. You'll find many of the regular features of *The Shekel* — and a total review of words, photographs and numismatic evidence of the vitality of our amazing organization. a special editorial team includes the Editor; Morris Bram, president; Nat Sobel, the first editor of *The Shekel*; David Hendin, a regular *Shekel* columnist; and longtime contributor and Board member, Mel Wacks.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Morris Bram



It was only months ago that we first set the plan for the Ninth Study Tour to Israel; now we are practically at the loading ramp of the El Al jet that will carry us half around the world to the Ben-Gurion Airport, the very airport where only months ago the political hostages of the terrorists returned to Israel and freedom on our Bicentennial Fourth of July.

By late November we had our first commitments and it was clear that we had a full bus. Then members of the Board almost as a group began to commit; next their friends. Then publicity appeared in *The Shekel*, and in *Coin World*; and *Numismatic News Weekly* and the results of the mailing of the beautiful blue booklet account of the *Eighth Tour Group* began to have its effect. A second busload and our plan for a 60-person tour was fulfilled!

But still the mail and checks came in: now we are having the second largest tour in AINA history! It looks like 100 people will share the experience and the excitement in Israel is tremendous. Added tables for planned banquets; added rooms at the distant points in Sharm-el-Shekh and Eilat. Added tables at the kibbutz meals. The logistics are frightening—and no one is more thrilled than your president at your responsiveness to the AINA invitation to share THIS YEAR with us - in Jerusalem.

But that wasn't all that has happened. More new AINA clubs! I'm thrilled to announce Florida's third INS: the INS of Broward County, the area above Miami Beach where we just enjoyed an AINA Day at the Miami Mid-Winter Numismatic

Convention. You'll see one or two pictures from this event in the pages of this *Shekel*.

But there's more NEWS: the next *Shekel* is one you must make room for in your vault or home safe. It will be triple the size of the regular *Shekel*, a book-thick *Shekel* with most of the regular features AND the entire story of AINA's dynamic Ten Year Growth. We're celebrating AINA's tenth birthday at the May Convention in New York. The permanent historical memoir of that event will be this special *Shekel*. I must tell you how proud I am of the experienced journalists in our ranks who are giving time and effort to create a remarkable document of words, pictures, anecdotes and related material.

If you have been thinking about becoming a LIFE MEMBER, send in your check for \$125 today: you'll be listed in this never-to-be-forgotten issue of *The Shekel*.

If you have been thinking about coming at last to an AINA covention, this year has the special events and the special reason for you to come to New York (April 28-29-30 and May 1).

If you have been thinking about joining the AINA Tour to Israel, *too late*: as you read this, we're either on the plane or already afoot in the Holy Land. Send in your \$100 NOW — for next year.

Shalom,
Morris Bram, president



OPERATION JONATHAN

ISRAEL'S GIFT OF FREEDOM TO ARAB
HOSTAGES WAS A GIFT TO OUR
BICENTENNIAL: JULY 4, 1976



*Jonathan
Netanyahu*

by Dr. Moshe Pearlman

It was a rescue operation of incredible daring and audacity in conception, decision, and execution; and it captured the imagination of the world, stirred the hearts of free men everywhere, and dealt a stunning blow to the forces of terrorist darkness. It cheered millions of Americans on their own celebration of their own freedom from a king's oppression 200 years earlier.

At one minute after midnight, the opening minute of Sunday, July 4, 1976, a pathfinding Hercules aircraft of the Israel Air Force, which had flown more than

4,000 kilometers through the darkness without visual bearings or radio contact, touched down gently on an obsolete runway of the old Entebbe airport in Uganda. It carried the vanguard of an Israeli commando unit. It was quickly followed by additional planes with more troops, weapons and vehicles.

With muted motors, the first Hercules came to rest near a disused building where more than one hundred Israelis and the crew of a hijacked French passenger plane were held hostage. The captives were

Photos: Courtesy Consulate General of Israel, N.Y.



Brig. Gen. DAN SHOMRON: he headed the operation . . .

trying to assimilate the grim prospect that they had only another twelve hours to live; the terrorist ultimatum was due to expire at noon. There seemed to be no hope. It was unlikely that the hijackers' demands would be met; and they were too far from Israel to be within reach of rescue.

So they thought. So did almost everyone else in the world, until the Israel army unit dropped out of the skies to perform their astonishing act of courage and moral purpose.

The opening move in the grim week-long drama had occurred earlier: at midday on Sunday, 27 June, aloft inside an Air France aircraft, shortly after leaving Athens. The flight had originated in Tel Aviv, destination Paris, but at the stop-over in Athens it had taken on additional passengers. Among them were four "travelers" in transit; they had arrived earlier that morning on a flight from the Persian Gulf. Two were German, a man and a woman. The other two were Arabs.

All four were terrorists. Security at Athens was lax, particularly for transit passengers, and they had boarded the Air France airbus without a check.

Eight minutes after take-off, the passengers were startled to hear an excited feminine voice announcing over the intercom that the plane had been taken over by the Palestine Liberation Organization. All were ordered to raise their hands above their heads and not to move by the voice of the German woman. Silently backing up her order were the two Arab terrorists, standing with drawn guns and grenades. Explosive charges were then placed at the exit doors of the aircraft. The German male in the cockpit, forced the pilot at gunpoint to change course.

Sixteen hours later, following a refueling stop in pro-terrorist Libya, the plane landed at Entebbe, Uganda, the terrorist-planned destination. There the hijackers were joined by terrorist reinforcements allowed entry by the Ugandan authorities. Uganda's President Idi Amin, a bitter foe of Israel, gave the hijackers full cooperation. His troops were positioned round the terminal, not with their guns trained on the terrorists but on the planeload of men, women and children.

The Terrorist Ultimatum

Eight hours later, after twenty-four hours in their seats in the plane, the 246 passengers and crew of 12 were taken from the plane and thrust into dust-laden lounge of the old terminal building.

The following day, Tuesday, June 29, the terrorists issued their ultimatum: Israel, France, West Germany, Switzerland, and Kenya were to release from jail 53 fellow terrorists who had been caught earlier and tried for murder and sabotage in those countries. They were to be flown to Entebbe by 3 P.M., Thursday, July 1. Unless the deadline was met, the lives of the hostages would be forfeit.

Before that deadline, the hijackers released 47 non-Israeli hostages who were returned to Paris. They reported that soon after the landing at Entebbe, the terrorists had separated the Jews from the Gentiles. The presence of the two German terrorists sharpened the grim reminder of the Nazi death camps where the Jews assigned to the gas chambers were similarly by men with guns.

Israel was faced with a grave dilemma. She held to the principle of standing firm against terrorist blackmail. To capitulate would only invite further terrorism. But she was also deeply concerned for the lives of the hostages. She had accordingly followed two courses of action from the very outset. One was diplomatic—urging other governments and international bodies to use their best endeavours to ensure that no harm befell the passengers. The second was to seek a military option; and the Israel army had been feverishly engaged in planning possible rescue operations.

By Thursday morning, when the Israel government met to review the situation, and with the ultimatum set to expire in only hours, the diplomatic efforts had proved fruitless. A military undertaking, it was felt, would not get the rescuers to Entebbe in time. The government therefore took the painful decision of expressing readiness to negotiate with the terrorists.

That night, a further 101 non-Israeli captives were released. Now only the Israeli hostages, and several Jews of other nationalities, were left. Together with the Air France crew, who had nobly elected to stay with the captives, they numbered 109. The terrorists made it evident that they would have no compunction in killing the Jews if their demands were not met.

The expiration of the ultimatum had meanwhile been postponed to Sunday noon, July 4. By this time the Israel army had a rescue plan which might conceivably be executed before then. It was indeed daring, but with courage and combat skill, and with good prospects of secrecy, speed and surprise, it was a plan which offered a reasonable chance of success. If it was to be implemented, the army would need the go-ahead signal not later than the early afternoon of Saturday, July 3.

Every moment until then was to be spent in the most meticulous training of all selected to take part. The Air Force carried out training flights which simulated the worst possible conditions that might be encountered on the operational flight. The commandos and auxiliary troops rehearsed again and again to try to trim seconds off each operational stage. A



... conducted by the Israel Air Force and commandos.

mock-up of the Entebbe airport and installations was assembled. Its creation was based on information from sundry intelligence sources; with it the attacking force would know exactly where to go when they dashed from the planes on touchdown.

The striking force were already aboard the planes, ready to go, when the Israel Cabinet met early on Saturday afternoon to make the agonizing decision. The hazards were immense. The aircraft might crash or even be shot down on the long treacherous route over hostile territory; or when they came in to land at Entebbe; or on the flight back. The terrorists might kill the hostages before they were themselves overpowered. Failure of the mission would mean doom to both the hostages and their would-be saviours. On the other hand, failure to launch the mission would mean surrender to the terrorists.

The government decided to go ahead, placing its trust in the combat troops and in the pilots and navigators of the Air Force. The strike force planes flew off.



Freed hostages debark in Israel.

After a tense and tricky flight of several hours, they skimmed in low over Lake Victoria and came in to land undetected exactly at the calculated time. The wheels of the pathfinding Hercules had barely come to rest when the tail ramp was let down and the storming unit dashed to the terminal building. The commandos split up into detachments as they ran, each detachment moving fast but silently on the rubber-soled boots towards its assigned target. The remaining planes followed, their squads racing to prevent the Ugandan troops in various parts of the airfield from interfering in the rescue operation. Commanding the entire operation was Brigadier-General Dan Shomron. Commanding the storming unit was Lieutenant-Colonel Jonathan Netanyahu.

The first terrorists encountered by men of this unit were the two Germans. Both were outside the building, weapons in their hands; the man was outside near a window, the woman near the entrance. Both were killed before they had time to fire. Other commandos then burst into the room of the terminal where the hostages were held under gun-threat by the two Arab hijackers. Shouts in Hebrew told the hostages to lie down on the floor, but before the terrorists could be pinpointed, they opened fire, one with an automatic rifle and the other with a revolver. Several of the captives were hit in the cross-fire during which two terrorists were killed.

Thus, all four hijackers had been disposed of within the first few minutes of the operation.

However, it was known that other terrorists had joined them at Entebbe, and Jonathan's men combed the building for them, found three and shot them.

While other parts of the airport were heavy with the sound and smoke of gunfire in clashes with Ugandan troops, the hostages were being assembled and brought to the waiting planes. Army doctors and medical orderlies tended the wounded.

Jonathan Netanyahu hit

Suddenly, streams of bullets covered the terminal building area, fired by Ugandan troops in and around the control tower. Jonathan, standing just outside the main entrance, the better to command his squads, was hit and fell dead. Three of the hostages also lost their lives. (A fourth, 75-year old Mrs. Dora Bloch, who had been taken ill a few days earlier to a hospital in Kampala, Uganda's capital, was later murdered by Idi Amin's security guards.)

Once the rescued passengers, the Air France crew, the troops and their equipment were back inside their planes, they headed for home. The operation, soon to be renamed "Operation Jonathan", had lasted little more than an hour. Only a few

hours later, in the early morning of Sunday, July 4, the freed hostages were back in Israel. They were greeted by their families amid scenes of ineffable poignancy.

There are times—and this was one of them—when the fate of a people hangs on the deeds of a small band of brave men, dedicated to save the cause of righteousness. Such was the band of Israeli troops who carried out “Operation Jonathan”.

2,142 Years Earlier

A remarkable precedent had been set for their action at Entebbe by their own forbears, in this very land of Israel, 2,142 years ago. These were the glorious Maccabees, who regained freedom for the Jews of their own time, and in doing so fashioned a mould for the preservation of the Jewish identity for all time.

In the final month of the year 164 BCE, following a lengthy guerrilla struggle against the mighty Seleucid Empire, Judah the Maccabee and his now battle-hardened army regained and re-dedicated the Temple of Jerusalem which the Seleucids had desecrated three years earlier. The act is celebrated to this day by Jews throughout the world in the Festival of Hanukka.

A few weeks later, Judah's troops were rushing to the rescue of Jewish communities in the distant reaches of the neighbouring territories who were under the threat of massacre by the local rulers. The account is related in the Books of the Maccabees.

The most poignant cry for help at that time came from Gilead (today's southern Syria and northern Jordan). Messengers “with their garments torn” brought news of an uprising against the Jews; many had already been murdered. The survivors had taken refuge in Dathema, a fortress some 30 kilometers due east of the Sea of Galilee. The report contained in *“this letter to Judah and his brothers: The Gentiles round us have gathered to wipe us out. They are preparing to come and seize the fortress where we have fled for protection. Timotheus is in command of their army. Come and rescue us from their hand . . .”* (I Macc. 5:10-12).

This set a problem for the Maccabean leaders even grimmer than that which faced the Israel Cabinet in June 1976; for



Israel: July 4, 1976

the Maccabee forces would need to journey overland through hostile territory to reach their distant targets, probably having to fight battles enroute and to engage in stiff combat with entrenched forces the moment they arrived. *Yet they set out immediately.*

After receiving from the messengers of Gilead all possible intelligence on the strength, defences and disposition of the enemy, Judah decided to avoid the direct, easier and more common route. Instead he preceded eastwards from Jerusalem straight to the Jordan, crossed the river, made a three-day march northeast through the Transjordanian desert, reached Gilead, captured a fortified enemy town to the rear of Timotheus' army, made a night march and came upon Dathema from an unexpected direction at first light.

When dawn broke, the Maccabees saw before them “an innumerable host” engaged in “bringing up scaling ladders and siege engines” to seize the fortress with its beleaguered Jews.

Calling to his men “Now is the time to fight for our brothers”, Judah launched a three-pronged assault, pressing the enemy against the fortress walls, destroying their manoeuvrability and inflicting heavy casualties in the hand-to-hand fighting that followed. The Jews of Dathema were saved and brought to Israel, and “a jubilant cry went up to heaven”.

Among the weapons carried in their aircraft to Entebbe by the Israel rescue unit in “Operation Jonathan”, not the least formidable was assuredly the timeless spirit of the Maccabees.



OPERATION JONATHAN

Official State Medal

The Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation is pleased to announce the limited issue of a historically significant state medal, commemorating the courageous rescue at Entebbe airport on the 4th of July, 1976.

"He sent from above and took me" (Psalms 18, verse 17) is the wording of this magnificent medal, which is being issued in gold, sterling silver and bronze.

Orders and payment for the gold medal will be accepted by AINA if paid and postmarked by March 1, 1977.

Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin appointed the special committee which selected the theme and design for the official state medal commemorating the dramatic commando operation at Entebbe, Uganda, which resulted in the freeing of more than 100 Israeli hostages.

Appointees were headed by the chairman of the special committee, Assistant Minister of Defence Asher Ben-Nathan. This ministry, one of Israel's most powerful, was intimately involved in the planning and execution of "Operation Jonathan," as the rescue mission became known.

Representing the Israeli artists' community were Dan Caravan; executive sec-

retary of the Israel government Gershon Avner is another high official to serve on the Entebbe rescue medal committee.

IGCMC's board chairman Mordechai Surkis and the corporation's Director-General Yitzhak Avni rounded out the committee.

The gold edition will be encased in an attractive olive-wood box, exclusive to Israel numismatics.

Description of the medal:

Obverse: The verse from the Song of David "He sent from above and took me" (Psalms 18, verse 17) in Hebrew and English

Reverse: The emblem of Zahal (Israel Defense Forces): Sword with olive leaf, superimposed on airplane wings and the inscription: Operation Jonathan, 4th July, 1976

Design: Obverse - Shamir Brothers, Tel Aviv

Reverse - Roli (Rothschild and Lippman) Tel Aviv

Engraving: Moshe Nov, Jerusalem

Minted: Bronze and Silver, Moshe Hecht, Tel Aviv Gold, Government Mint, Jerusalem

Details of the medal:

Cat. No.	Metal	Diameter	Weight	Price US \$
00006161	Bronze	59mm	98g.	7.50
10306165	Silver/900	59mm	115g.	49.00
20906161	Gold	35mm	30g.	350.00

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE IN ISRAEL BANK NOTE SERIES

by Samuel Lachman

The current series of Israel banknotes made its appearance with the issue of the IL10 note at the beginning of 1975, followed by the IL100 note, and recently by the IL5 note.

The notes were designed by the Israeli graphic artist Paul Kor. The Italian artist Adrian Senger prepared them for printing, and Dutch artists engraved the notes. The notes were printed by J. Enschede and Son, Haarlem, The Netherlands.

Particulars of the notes are as follows:

•IL5 (11 March 1976). Sepia on light cinnamon paper. Size 128 by 77 mm. Obverse Henrietta Szold (1860-1945), in the background the Hadassa hospital on Mount Scopus. Reverse The Lions Gate, Jerusalem. Three embossed disks on the obverse.

•IL10 (30 January 1975). Plum on light purple paper. Size 135 to 76 mm. Obverse Sir Moses Montefiore (1785-1885), in the



Israel's current banknote series began with the issuance of the IL10 in January, 1975. The IL100 was issued in March 1975 and the IL5 followed a year later.



The first seven consecutive notes from the beginning of a packet show the order of serial numbers in the IL10 denomination.

background Misknot Sha'ananim Quarter, Jerusalem. Reverse The Jaffa Gate, Jerusalem. Two embossed discs on the obverse.

●IL100 (14 March 1975). Prussian blue on light blue paper. Size 148 by 76 mm. Obverse Theodor Herzl (1860-1904); in the background the entrance to Mount Herzl, Jerusalem. Reverse The Zion Gate, Jerusalem.

Watermarks show the profile of the personality on the note. Signatures are on the obverse, David Horovitz, chairman of the advisory council at left; Moshe Sanbar, governor of the Bank of Israel at right. The notes are dated 1973.

The serial numbers are in black on the reverse at top left and bottom right. They are composed of ten digits.

The notes in an original packet do not bear consecutive numbers. Between the first and the second note of each batch of ten is a difference of 18, and between each of the following eight notes is a difference of 9, from one note to another, as shown in the list of serial numbers below.

All notes show a bar code on the reverse in yellowish ink. This code is for computer reading. The IL5 and IL10 notes have embossed discs on the obverse to enable the blind to identify the notes.

When the IL10 notes were issued, the *Jerusalem Post* of 30 January 1975 carried the following remarks:

"While the new note does not have a metallic strip like on the old notes, it does have a distinct watermark, also in the likeness of Montefiore.

"In addition, it has a number imprinted in invisible ink, which can be scanned only by appropriate electronic equipment used by the Bank of Israel."

An examination of the notes shows the bar code clearly at top right and bottom left of the reverse. Examination of a number of notes led to the deduction of the following information; it was not obtained from any official source.

The bar is composed of twelve segments. Each segment is formed by 4, 3, or 2 bars. It was assumed that the number of the bar code is in some way related to the serial number of the note. It was further assumed that four bars indicate the numeral "0". Both assumptions proved to be correct, upon examination of a quantity of notes.

The following list presents the serial numbers of the first ten notes of a packet and the corresponding reading of the bar code:

Serial Number	Bar Code
1707700050	177700050700
1707700068	177700068000
1707700077	177700077700
1707700086	177700086800
1707700095	177700095500
1707700104	177700104000
1707700113	177700113200
1707700122	177700122400
1707700131	177700131800
1707700140	177700140800

The difference between the serial numbers and the bar code reading, indicated from left to right, follows:

a) The third numeral of the serial number appears in position 11 of the code.

b) The numeral appearing in position 10 of the code is the secret number for which so far no regularity could be detected.



The bar code on Israeli banknotes has been broken by examination of numerous banknotes.



Printed in yellowish ink on the reverse top right and bottom left, the bar code on Israeli bank notes is easily visible.

c) On all examined notes the numeral in position 12 of the code is 0.

d) The numeral appearing in position 3 of the serial number and position 11 of the code, found so far in circulation are:

IL5	0
IL10	0 or 1
IL100	6 or 7

It should be understood that the above particulars refer to the code in use at present, and found so far on all notes in circulation. Further notes issued in the future may show differences.

AINA ISSUES 1977 MEMBERSHIP TOKEN



COINS OF ANCIENT ISRAEL

by David Hendin



HOW DID THEY DATE ANCIENT JEWISH COINS

Elsewhere in this issue of *The Shekel* you will read my report on the controversial Masada Medal issued recently by an Evangelist group.

Only one of the controversial aspects of that medal was the fact that the date "73 A.D." appeared on it. "A.D." is an abbreviation of the Latin words *Anno Domini* or "in the year of our Lord," referring to Jesus.

Jews—and, incidentally, some other scholars as well—have taken to using instead the non-secterian reference "C.E." for "common era" as well as B.C.E. (before the common era) instead of B.C.

Pondering all this I began to think about the many persons who have asked me about the dates on ancient coins in general, and the coins of Ancient Israel in particular.

Many persons—including coin collectors—have never given the dating of coins much thought, and thus are surprised to find that the methods we use to date coins today are relatively modern as far as numismatics goes.

In fact, the first coins using the currently used dating system were not struck until 1234 by the Roskilde mint, now in Denmark. By that time coins had been minted for more than 1500 years! Many of those earlier coins had dates, but they were not dates as we know them today. Ancient coins were dated by the regnal year of the ruler or by some kind of a local era.

This would be the equivalent of 1977 coins of the United States being dated "Year One," corresponding to "The first year of the rule of Jimmy Carter."



Obverse of a coin of Alexander Jannaeus. Note the crude letters made up of lines connected by dots at the tips of the anchor. Letters are L KE or Year 25, equivalent to 78 B.C.E.

The first dated Jewish coins were apparently struck under Alexander Jannaeus (Yannai), King of Israel from 103 to 76 B.C.E. All of his coins were not dated, but at least one type was.

This is the small bronze (Hendin-12, Meshorer 9 var.) which carries on its obverse an upside-down anchor within a circle surrounded by the Greek for "of King Alexander." The reverse shows a star of eight rays surrounded by dots and a crude Aramaic inscription, which translates to "King Alexander Year 25."

On the obverse, many specimens of this type have a number of dots at the points of the anchor. These are meant to spell out the letters L KE in a style almost exactly identical to the lettering on Seleucid coins of the same period. These letters no doubt also signify the date, Year 25, referring to the 25th year of the reign of Jannaeus—78 B.C.E.

Some of the coins of Herod I are dated $\Lambda\Gamma$, referring to the official third year of Herod's reign, or 37 B.C.E. (Herod actually reigned from 37 to 4 B.C.E., but he had been officially designated "King of Judaea" by the Roman Senate and Octavian in 40 B.C.E. However, it was three years before he could wrest the throne

Continued on page 32

The ALPH BETH Page

...Dedicated to the Beginner

by Edward Janis



Q. As a Canadian, I have some recollection of the Canadian Mint having struck coins for the State of Israel. Can you tell me what they were? E.R., Montreal, Can.

A. In 1973, the Canadian Mint struck a little over 7,000,000 five agorot and some 10,580,000 ten agorot pieces. In the latter series, the mintage was about 75% of all the pieces issued for the year. A year later in 1974, the Canadian Mint struck approximately 4,000,000 one lira pieces. This was about 70% of the production of these pieces for the year.

Q. I was told that the Jewish Legion medal listed in Kagan as a State Medal and listed in 59 mm. in tombac and 45 mm. in silver, also exists in silver in the 59 mm. size, not listed in Kagan. Does this variety exist? R.F., Milwaukee, Wisc.

A. It certainly does. It is not classified as a State Medal. You will find it listed under Commissioned Medals. There were four pieces that were struck for presentation purposes and these were not available to the public. About five years ago, I saw what was purported to be one of these 59 mm. silver medals offered for sale at a convention. Somebody silverplated one of the tombac pieces and tried to pass it on as one of the rare presentation pieces. It was a good plating job and could, if the silver look was the only criterion, be passed to an unwary collector. In 59 mm. the tombac medal weighs 88 grams while the rare silver presentation medal of same size weighs 117 grams (or a little less than 50% more).

Q. At a local coin show I purchased a bronze medal that has the inscription "ORT School of Engineering Jerusalem". The edge is stamped "Israel" in English and in Hebrew. Who is ORT and who struck this medal? Y.M., White Plains, N.Y.

A. The medal is not bronze but tombac. This is a bronze-like metal developed by Canada for coinage during shortages of certain materials during World War II. World ORT is the *Organization for Rehabilitation through Training*. The American affiliate, Women's American ORT, is very active in fund-raising for the establishment of training centers and schools throughout the world. This medal is a commissioned medal that was issued by Women's American ORT as a fund-raising item and it commemorates the opening of the ORT School of Engineering on Jerusalem five years ago. This medal was struck BUT NOT ISSUED BY the IGCAM Corporation. The edge device like many other commissioned medals have the words "Israel" in English and Hebrew separated by a dot. There were 5,000 struck in open mintage and the figure is not final. Women's American ORT, if it required more medals for fund raising, could call on IGCAM for another 1,000 or 5,000 tomorrow.



Q. On my Palestine Mandate coins, I note two Hebrew letters in parenthesis after the word "Palestine" in Hebrew on the obverse of the coins. What does this stand for? W.R., Hartford, Conn.

A. This is an abbreviation of the Hebrew words *Eretz Yisroal* (Land of Israel).



Rabbi cites irony
**MASADA MEDAL ISSUED
TO PROMOTE EVANGELISM**

by David Hendin

A new and highly controversial "Masada Medal" has recently been issued, and is offered free to collectors.

Ironically, the new medal, which honors the Jewish zealots who heroically defended the Dead Sea mountain fortress against the armies of Rome, is being used to promote an Evangelist organization.

The 35 mm copper-colored, cast medal was offered via a television program which described the siege of Masada by the Roman troops of General Flavius Silva at the end of the First Jewish War Against Rome in the year 73 C.E.

The television documentary was sponsored by World Evangelism, Inc., of San Diego, Calif., and that group is offering its version of the Masada Medal free of charge. The TV program featured Dr. Morris Cerullo of World Evangelism, Inc., and a number of Israeli actors recreate some of the events of the Masada siege. Famed Israeli archaeologist Prof. Yigael Yadin delivered a message on the archaeological background of Masada, which Yadin himself excavated some years ago. His work made history come alive again.



Official
Israel Government
Medal



World
Evangelical
Medal

Controversy has arisen, according to a report in *Coin World*, because "The purely documentary nature of the production was contradicted, some observers believe, by the conclusion of the program, which appeared to them to be a proselytizing message on behalf of the sponsor, World Evangelism, Inc."

Furthermore, *Coin World* reports, "Yigael Yadin is reported by the Israeli press to have expressed misgivings about his appearance in the World Evangelism program, stating he was unaware of the possible sectarian slant of the presentation; the Israeli actors have been subjected to severe criticism in the Israeli newspapers in the wake of the broadcast."

"The design of the medal has caused considerable comment, as the obverse closely resembles the Israel state medal on the same subject, with its frontal view of the mountain, with Silva's diamond-shaped camp on the base. The appearance of the date as '73 A.D.' has caused additional objections, as 'Anno Domini' dates are not used on official medals, the non-sectarian 'Common Era' or C.E. appearing by preference," *Coin World* reports.

Indeed, in addition to the controversy described above, at least one noted authority on Judaic and anti-Semitic literature believes the medal in question has clear anti-Semitic overtones.

Rabbi J. Benjamin Yablok of Scarsdale, N.Y. observes that the World Evangelist-issued medal "doesn't display anti-Semitism overtly, but the promoters use it in an anti-Semitic way."

In an interview with *The Shekel*, Rabbi Yablok cited the quote from Psalms on the reverse of the Evangelist's medal: "O that my people had hearkened unto me . . ."

"This quote," Rabbi Yablok explains, "suggests that we, the Jewish people, are beleaguered by our unfaithfulness to God. Coming as it does from an Evangelist source, this suggests that the Jewish people are undergoing the hardships they do because they don't accept the New Testament teachings."

It is especially ironic that the Evangelists have chosen to use Masada in their attempt to proselytize Jews, since Masada and the story of its defenders is the classic Jewish example of Jewish resistance to such efforts. Indeed, Masada's 970 defenders chose mass suicide rather than surrender to the massacre, rape and enslavement the Roman legions would have no doubt enacted.

Use of the symbol Masada on an Evangelist medal is a "very insidious kind of thing," Rabbi Yablok charges.

Coin World's David Alexander reports that the distributors claim the new Masada Medal was made in Israel, with the medal's brochure stating the medal was made from copper that was a product of "King Solomon's mines," in the Negev desert.

But, says Alexander, "Close investigation of the 30.88 gram medal reveals a specific gravity of 10.797, however, closer to lead's 11.34 than to copper's specific gravity of 8.92. The medal is cast in an alloy apparently composed largely of lead, covered with a thin copper wash."

Collectors of Israel coins and medals will find it interesting to obtain and display this ersatz medal alongside the "real thing"—that is the genuine Masada Medal, issued by and still available from the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp., 641 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. (Bronze, 59mm, \$6.00 plus \$1.50 postage, handling.)

GREATER NEW YORK COIN CONVENTION SET WITH PETER MOSS, GENERAL CHAIRMAN

The Fifth Annual Greater New York Coin Convention Ltd. has been announced for April 28, 29, 30 and May 1, 1977 at the New York Sheraton, stated Peter Moss, General Chairman who pointed out the convention will be held jointly with the convention of the American Israel Numismatic Association.

The four day convention will feature a bourse of over 100 dealers; an auction to be conducted by the Paramount International Coin Corp.; an educational forum which will feature three of America's greatest numismatic luminaries; and a broad range of activities which will be held in connection with the Tenth Anniversary of the American Israel Numismatic Association, he continued.

A number of special efforts have been undertaken to assure a vast exhibit of competitive and non-competitive displays of entries in eight categories, explained Mr. Moss.

A late January pre-Convention formative session saw assignment of chairmanships and committee memberships to steer the dual convention planning groups with participants from New York, Long Island, New Jersey and Connecticut.

Special events which are expected to attract busloads of convention attendees are the all-day Sunday, May 1 AINA Day, a special event in 1977 because of the Tenth Anniversary which is the theme of the AINA participation, pointed out Mr. Moss. Further, a day-long Young Numismatist Day will be held on Saturday, April 30.

Sponsors of the two-week long AINA Study Tour to Israel in March hope to complete a color-sound film for debut at the Tour Reunion Event at the Convention

while the leadership of AINA itself is aiming at attracting widespread attention to the organization's Tenth Anniversary Medal to be made available at the Event. The medal design was by AINA member Howard Ahl of Florida whose graphics were selected by a committee in mid-1976 from a field of nearly 100 medal-design contestants from nearly twenty states.

A further bid for attendee enthusiasm has been made by announcement of a major exhibit of coins and medals of Israel from the Kagan-Maremba Collection. The actual coins and medals are shown on giant panels which feature the pages from the well-known reference work, *Israel's Money and Medals*, published by A.H. Kagan. Mr. Kagan is a member of the Board of Directors of AINA and a longtime collector of Israel's numismatics.

The banquet planned for the Saturday evening of the convention will be attended by numismatists from across the United States and an early sell-out of the available 350 seats is predicted for the affair.

Mr. Moss announced that he has been advised that special Tenth Anniversary issue of *The Shekel*, the six-times a year publication of the Association will be readied for limited distribution at the convention in advance of the national distribution to all of the organization's members.

Information for tables at the bourse, further convention details and advance registration may be obtained from Convention Chairman, P.O. Box 499, Fresh Meadows Station, Flushing, N.Y. 11365. Individuals who wish to exhibit may reserve cases and get Exhibit Entry Applications from Nat Sobel, P.O. Box 518, Wall Street Sta., New York, N.Y. 10005.

FIFTH ANNUAL GREATER NEW YORK COIN CONVENTION, LTD.

in association with Convention of American Israel Numismatic Assn.

April 28, 29, 30, and May 1, 1977

N. Y. Sheraton Hotel
7th Ave. & 56th St.
New York City

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1977

- 1:00 P.M. Security Room Opens
- 7:00 P.M. NASCA Auction—Manhattan Skyline Room

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1977

- 9:00 A.M. Dealers and Exhibitors set up
- 10:30 A.M. Registration Opens
- 11:00 A.M. Bourse and Exhibits Open to Public
- 11:00 A.M. Security Room Closes
- 7:00 P.M. Auction Paramount—Manhattan Skyline Room
- 8:30 P.M. Registration Closes
- 9:00 P.M. Closing of Bourse and Exhibits

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1977

- 9:30 A.M. Bourse Area—Dealers Only
- 9:30 A.M. Registration Opens
- 10:00 A.M. Bourse and Exhibits Open to Public
- 1:30 P.M. METSPAN—PNC Park Sheraton Suite
- 7:00 P.M. Auction: Paramount—Manhattan Skyline Room
- 7:30 P.M. Educational Forum—Park Sheraton Suite
- Speakers—Eva Adams, Moderator; John J. Pittman, Virginia Culver, George Hatie
- 8:30 P.M. Registration Closes
- 9:00 P.M. Closing of Bourse and Exhibits

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 1977

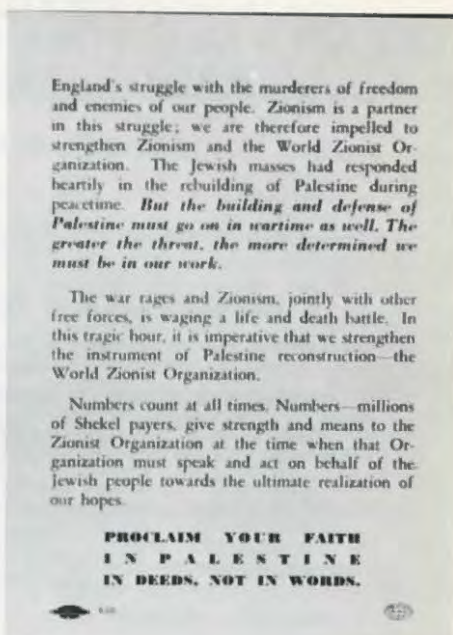
- 8:00 A.M. A.I.N.A. Board Meeting—Board Room
- 9:30 A.M. Bourse Area open to Dealers Only
- 9:30 A.M. Registration Open
- 10:00 A.M. Bourse and Exhibit Area Open to Public
- 10:30 A.M. Young Numismatists—Oriental Room
- 1:00 P.M. J.S.C.A.—Gotham Room
- 2:00 P.M. METAMS—Class Room
- 2:00 P.M. Auction: Paramount—Manhattan Skyline Room
- 2:00 P.M. G.E.N.A. Board Meeting—Board Room
- 3:00 P.M. A.I.N.A. Tour Reunion—Park Sheraton Suite
- 5:30 P.M. Registration Closes
- 6:00 P.M. Closing of Bourse and Exhibits
- 7:00 P.M. Reception—Manhattan Skyline
- 8:00 P.M. Banquet—Corinthian Room

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 1977

- 8:30 A.M. A.I.N.A. Board Meeting with Presidents—Class Room
- 9:30 A.M. Registration Opens
- 9:30 A.M. Bourse Area Open to Dealers Only
- 10:00 A.M. Bourse and Exhibit Open to Public
- 10:30 A.M. A.I.N.A. Workshop—Class Room
- 12:30 P.M. A.I.N.A. Luncheon—Manhattan Skyline Room
- 2:00 P.M. Educational Forum
- 4:00 P.M. Closing of Bourse and Exhibits
- 5:00 P.M. Convention Closes



Cover of U.S. Central Shekel Board pamphlet dating to 1940. *



Back cover of pamphlet urging support of the World Zionist Organization.



Delegate's Badge to Zionist Convention feature's Herzl silhouette.



Cover of Shekel Receipt booklet. Note art, right. Shekel, Year Three (M-154).

A PRIOR PRINTED SHEKEL

By Dr. Uriel Paul Federbuch

Our periodical, *The Shekel*, began publication in the Spring of 1968. Rummaging through some papers, I came across another printed *Shekel*, one which antedates AINA's publication by nine years. Also found was a pamphlet urging "Pay The Shekel" from the U.S. Central Shekel Board, dated Sept. 22-29, 1940, well before the establishment of the State of Israel. An interesting short history of the shekel and its importance as a ballot for elections to the World Zionist Congress is included.

Originally the shekel was a unit of weight of gold or silver used as a means of payment. It was so employed by the ancient Israelites, probably based on a standard used by the Babylonians.

It is often mentioned in the Bible. The first transaction cited was that of Abraham weighing four hundred shekels of silver for payment to Ephron in settlement for the purchase of the Cave of Machpela, the patriarchal burial place. It was the then current medium of exchange.¹ It was also employed in the ceremony of the Redemption of the First Born, when the Levites were to be given the sum of five shekels.²

That is the reason why designs on the reverse of the Israeli Pidyon Haben coins incorporate illustrations from the Shekels of the First Revolt, together with Biblical quotes. The coins issued in 1973(5733) - 1975(5735) contain the inscription "All the firstborn of thy sons shalt thou redeem³ surrounded by five Shekels of old. In 1976(5736) the design of the reverse was changed. It now depicts a cluster of five pomegranate flowers—as found on the ancient Shekels—together with a new inscription, "Those that are to be redeemed from a month old shalt thou redeem."⁴

Moses was further commanded to take a census of the Children of Israel by means of the payment of a half-shekel by every man over the age of twenty. The contribution was to be equal for rich and poor

alike. The proceeds were then to be utilized for the support of the Tabernacle.⁵

It is no doubt that the national memory of this ancient usage prompted the issue of the Shekel Coin during The First Revolt in 66-70 C.E. This coin, pictured on the cover of *The Shekel*, is possibly the most beautiful of all ancient Jewish coins.

When Herzl founded the Zionist Organization, he met with scant success in interesting the wealthy Jews of the time to support him. Therefore the First Zionist Congress, convened in Basel in 1897, decided to utilize the *Shekel*. The Zionist movement was to comprise all Jews who accepted its program and paid the *Shekel*. This biblical name was given to the membership fee of the Zionist Organization, designed to enlist the support of the general Jewish population for its aims, giving the movement a mass base.

The cover of the *Shekel* receipt booklet illustrated, depicts the obverse of a shekel of the Year Three (M 154), as does the one on the cover of our journal. It was struck in Jerusalem in 68 C.E. However, the reverse pictured on the booklet, is not that of the coin, but of a modern adaptation. It shows a seven-branched Menorah. Around the edge is written in modern Hebrew script, *Hacongress Harishon Litkumat Yisrael*, or "The First Congress On The Establishment Of Israel." The *Shekel* in question was a ballot for elections to the twenty-fifth Zionist Congress in 1960. There were 2,148,029 shekel holders that year.

It should also be noted that the *Knesset*, Israel's parliament, has passed a law which will in the future re-establish the shekel as the monetary unit of the nation.

Therefore the name of our publication is a most apt one. Our title, *The Shekel*, spans millenia of Jewish history, and links us with the glorious past of a great people.

1. Genesis 23:16

2. Numbers 18:16

3. Exodus 34:20

4. Numbers 18:16

5. Exodus 30: 13-16

ARE YOU AN AINA LIFE MEMBER?

There are a number of reasons why you may wish to start your Life Membership in AINA before the celebrations are launched for AINA's Tenth anniversary.

- **LIFE MEMBERSHIP** — pay it one time only and it's a guarantee you'll never miss an AINA mailing or offering.
- **LIFE MEMBERSHIP** — make out one check — receive *The Shekel* issue after issue.
- **LIFE MEMBERSHIP** — your one-time payment becomes an interest-bearing account to cover your dues today; and provide AINA with a tiny legacy tomorrow.
- **LIFE MEMBERSHIP** — you join an elite group of AINA's "best" because you have proven your devotion in a permanent endowment.

. . . and to honor all of AINA's LIFE MEMBERS the special issue of *THE SHEKEL* for AINA's Tenth Anniversary will list ALL AINA Life Members.

You have only until March 20, 1977 to be included in this permanent Roll call of the Life Members.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP IN AINA IS NOW ONLY \$125.00

Send in Your Check Today!

MEDAL OF ALBERTO COHEN, PROBABLY MINTED IN ITALY

by Eli Semmelman, Haifa

Recently I acquired three interesting medals on Jewish subjects; one is the medal of Albert Cohen, struck to honor him by Italian Jewry.

Albert Cohen was born in Bratislava (Slovakia) in 1814, died in Paris in 1877. Cohen was a scientist and a philanthropist.

Cohen studied Eastern Languages in the University of Vienna. In 1836 he moved to Paris to continue his studies, and he became tutor to the children of Baron James de Rothschild. From 1839 till his death, he managed the philanthropic projects of the Rothschild House. He visited Eastern countries and North Africa many times. In 1845/7 he visited Algiers and Tunisia and in 1859 he visited Morocco. On 1854 he visited Palestine for the first time. He founded in Jerusalem, schools, a hospital, an alms house and a maternity center. Cohen returned to Palestine in 1854 and 1869. While visiting the Sultan Abdel Mejio in Constantinople in 1854 and 1856, he won equal rights for both the Jews and Christians in the Ottoman Empire.

Cohen was very active in the welfare foundations of the Jewish Committee in Paris and he was a member of the Central Committee of the Alliance Israel Associa-

tion in Paris. He was founder of *Chevrat Mekitzey Nirdamin**

In 1870-1876 he lectured in the Rabbinical College in Paris. He took part in the religious reform dispute where he vehemently opposed reform.

His most important writings are: *Jewish Letters* which appeared in the *Universe Israelit* periodical in the years 1864-1866. This contains autobiographical material.

The medal is bronze, 54mm. One side is probably Albert Cohen's Coat of Arms, showing the tablets of testimony, a seven-branched candelabrum, a *Shofar*, *Lulav* and a jug. Around the medal is a verse from Isaiah Chapter 42, verse 12. *Let them give glory unto the Lord and declare His praise in the islands*, the date in Hebrew 5615 (1855). In letters in Hebrew to the year counting of the Children of Israel. Names of the engravers are in letters: G.B.M. and A.Di.I. below the tablets of testimony. The engravers are not known to the author.

On the reverse of the metal in Italian: *To Alberto Cohen, thanks to his donations, which caused the renaissance of the Oriental Jews, from his Italian coreligionists, 1855.*



*The Mekitzey Nirdamin Association was founded in 1862/3 in Lick (East Prussia); the Society's aim was to issue and publish old and forgotten or unknown manuscripts scientifically and accurately. Many well known Jews joined the Society, among them the great philanthropist Sir Moses Montefiore. In 1855 the Society moved to Berlin; in 1933 when Hitler became

dictator of Germany, the Society moved to Israel. Since the foundation of the Society it has issued 110 important books not previously published.

Material for this article was taken from "Hebrew Encyclopedia"; Italian on the medal was translated by Dr. Aldo Kantony. Photographer is Mrs. Lea Lifschitz.

INS OF HOUSTON
DISPLAY AT THE
JEWISH BOOK
FAIR AT THE
JEWISH
COMMUNITY
CENTER LATE
LAST FALL.



Money raised by this group was donated to the hospital at Safed.

KAGAN
AWARDED
FIRST AINA
EDUCATION
AWARD



Morris Bram, AINA president honors publisher A. H. Kagan at the AINA Day at the recent Miami area convention with the first of the newly available AINA Education Awards developed through the efforts of Lester Dubin of Calif. and Nat Sobel of N.Y.



PLANS SET FOR CALIFORNIA HOLYLAND EXPO IN MAY

The Israel Holyland Expo '77 will be held May 22, 1977 at the Sportsman's Lodge, 12825 Ventura Blvd., No. Hollywood, California 90604.

The Expo is supported by AINA and three California clubs: the INS of San Gabriel Valley; the INS of San Fernando Valley; and the INS of Los Angeles. Mr. Morris Bram, president of AINA has been named as Honorary Chairman of the event.

General Chairman is Jerry Yahalom; Bourse Chairman is Murray Singer and the Exhibits Chairman is Mel Wacks. Lester Dubin will chair the Educational Forum.

There are stamp dealers among the coin and medal dealers with many exhibits featuring stamps. An educational forum will be held, to further this educational goal.

A set of wooden flats will be offered as the official expo souvenir, designed by Lester Dubin.

A gold coin will be the top prize, one of an estimated total of \$500.00 in door prizes. Tickets are \$1.00 per book of five tickets. Winners need not be present. For tickets, write to P. O. Box 1341, Upland, California 91786; enclose an SASE along with a check.

Mr. J.H. McInnis will head the judging of exhibits in eight different categories: Ancient coins, modern coins, medals and tokens, paper currency, stamps and PNC's, Junior, and miscellaneous. All must be of holyland related material.

Other committee chairmanships are as follows: Banquet—Anita Drapkin; Finance—Babe Baker; Publicity—Donna Sims; Registration—Sally Marx; Security—Dr. Herbert Drapkin; Secretary—Sarah Breslow; and Hospitality—Jackie Yahalom, Anita Drapkin, and Bernice Roth.

Dealers interested in obtaining a bourse table should contact Murray Singer, Bourse Chairman, at 122 No. Detroit Street, Los Angeles, California 90036. All prospective exhibitors of Holyland material should write P.O. Box 619, Encino, California 91316.

Floridians Form Third INS Group in Ft. Lauderdale Area

Collectors in the area of Ft. Lauderdale have been invited to join the newly organized Israel Numismatic Society of Broward County (Fla.).

The formative meeting was held at the City Hall of Lauderdale Lakes, Florida and the group has drawn its initial membership from residents of Ft. Lauderdale and the surrounding cities and suburbs of the North Miami area.

Newly elected officers are: Rose Kantor, president; Oscar Schaffer, recording secretary; and treasurer; Marvin Rose, vice-president; and Gladys Schwartz, corresponding secretary. Of 35 collectors and interested parties assembling for the first meeting, 27 members voted to create the new group, third in Florida.

The group voted to meet on the second Tuesday of each month at the City Hall of Lauderdale Lakes, announced the newly elected president.

1976 OFFICIAL ISRAEL MINTAGES ANNOUNCED

The official mintage figures of Israel's coins bearing year 5736 (1976) struck during 1975/6 at the Jerusalem mint were released in early February. No coins were struck elsewhere. — *Samuel Lachman, Haifa.*

1 Agora	4,512,000
5 Agorot (Aluminum)	13,156,000
10 Agorot	34,870,000
25 Agorot	3,901,000
½ Lira	4,959,000
1 Lira	4,268,000

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Haifa, Israel
5th December 1976.

To the Editor of the *SHEKEL*
Dear Sir,

May I be permitted to comment on the article by Edwin Mendelssohn "A Receipt for Palestine", which appeared in the September/October 1976 issue of *THE SHEKEL*.

1. It is not possible to say Sir Samuel, or Sir Bols. Only Sir Herbert or Sir Herbert Samuel are permitted. See: *A Dictionary of Modern English Usage* by H.W. Fowler. 2nd. ed. Oxford 1965., p. 560.

By the way why not the name of Sir Herbert Samuel with all titles, i.e. Sir Herbert L. Samuel, P.C., G.C.B., G.B.E., — he became only later Viscount.

2. Sir Louis Bols was not commanding the forces around Jerusalem. He was only of the rank of a Major-General, and stationed in the General Headquarters. The attack on Jerusalem was carried out by the XX. Corps, commanded by Sir Philip W. Chetwode, Bt. K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O. The 60th (London) Division under Major-General J.S.M. Shea, C.B., D.S.O., the 74th (Yeomanry) Division under Major-General E.S. Girdwood, and the 53rd (Welsh) Division under Major-General S.F. Mott formed part of the XX. Corps. See: Cyril Falls and A.F. Decke. *History of the Great War. Military Operations Egypt*

& Palestine. From 1917 to the end of the War. H.M.S. Stationary Office. London 1930, part II. pp. 662/3.

3. It may perhaps be of interest to note that Major-General Sir Louis Bols K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., was one of the British officers who acted in every possible way against Jewish interests in Palestine. It has been said that he and his aides encouraged the Arab community to offer resistance to Jewish immigration. See: Aharon Cohen. *Israel and the Arab World*. New York 1970, p. 175.

May be that Sir Louis Bols staged all the matter about the receipt out of pure malice. He should be shown in the proper light when mentioned in connection with matters concerning Israel. The receipt was published in: *History from 1880*. Israel Pocket Library. Jerusalem 1973, p. 48, where it is referred to as being in the Jerusalem State Archives.

Yours sincerely,
Samuel Lachman.

Response (in part) by E. Mendelssohn:

The facts were presented as they were without any attempt to reveal the attitudes of any of the participants. I sincerely regret if the article gave the impression of bias in any manner to Mr. Lachman.
Edwin Mendelssohn M.D.

CHECK YOUR MEDALS, FRIENDS

by Jack Garfein, AINA 4566; INSLI 25



Silver UJA Medal

Approximately twelve years ago I purchased the silver UJA medal from the IGCAM office in Manhattan. It lay around my house gathering dust in a drawer for years. It wasn't until 1971, when I received the *IGCAM Catalogue Supplement* and read the small print, that I happened to notice the final mintage of the UJA silver medal. It was 764.

A Number on the Edge?

Until that time I had thought that the mintage was 5000 (the maximum number quoted in the *IGCAM Catalogue*.) Upon glancing down the column of final mintages of discontinued medals, I discovered that the UJA silver had the *lowest* mintage of any State Medal. I carefully brushed the dust off the medal and placed it lovingly in the vault.

At the 1975 AINA convention in Manhattan I checked several dealers for the price of the UJA silver medal. One was J.J. Van Grover. He showed me what he lauded as a perfect specimen and while looking at the medal, I noticed a number on its edge. *A number?* I had looked at my medal many times but I did not remember seeing such a number; surely I would have noticed it if it was there.

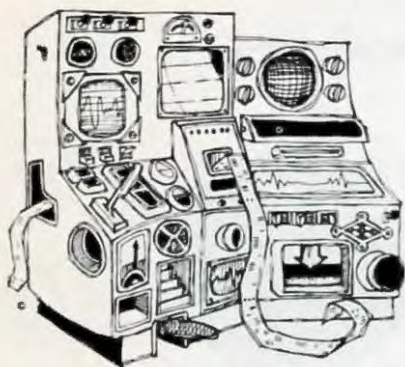
Upon returning home I examined my medal carefully; sure enough it did *not* have a number on its edge. It did have "sterling .935" in English and "silver" in Hebrew.

I brought the medal to the next INSLI club meeting and showed it to the members. The reaction of the majority was that I should further research the medal to find out if it was actually silver. Many suspected that it might be a silver-plated bronze medal, since the bronze UJA medal is also 59mm. Morris Bram suggested that I write to Yehuda Noy of the IGCAM in Israel; Morty Zerder decided that a non-destructive test (using ion bombardment) for silver would do the trick.

Neither avenue proved to be fruitful. Yehuda Noy, without seeing the medal, doubted that it could be silver since it did not have a serial number, and I wasn't able to find someone to perform the non-destructive ion bombardment test.

At the August 1976 meeting of INSLI our guest speaker was Israel numismatic expert, Sylvia Haffner. During the evening I approached her and told her of my medal. Sylvia told me that she would gladly check the authenticity of the medal. Shortly thereafter I received the results of the test. Sylvia suggests that the medal is an authentic UJA silver medal; however, by error, the serial number was never stamped on the edge.

Many of the people I have spoken to about this medal are dealers, and since they have never seen another error of this type, I suspect that I have discovered a unique specimen—a UJA silver medal without a serial number.



ELECTRONICS

by

Ya'akov Meshorer

I met a man on the airplane who had just come from Israel to practice electronics in Detroit. He began to praise what he was doing, his profession, and explained to me how important electronics were today, in the 20th century.

He could understand electronics, but could not understand wasting time studying coins from 2,000 years ago that are not of value anymore.

I began explaining what researching coins means. I realized at a certain stage that what I am doing with coins—the second step after researching coins—is preaching coins. “You think that everything that is important in life is doing whatever benefits man—with better machinery, making things automatic—so that people will just have to sit and watch how the machines work,” I said.

“Does this evoke the general feeling of Mankind? Do you really believe that by your electronics, people in the 20th century are healthier than Jacob and the patriarchs or better than Julius Caesar 2,000 years ago?

“What Makes You Different?”

“One thing you should take into consideration,” I told him, “is that the difference between human beings is not only electronics but humanities. People enjoy so many things. People enjoy beautiful pictures. They like to listen to music. They like to feel that their minds are working as well as their physical hands, mouths and legs.”

I asked him, “Actually, what do you do during your day aside from electronics?” He said he listens to music on the radio. I explained to him that he doesn’t realize how many things without immediate use and practice he is doing and practicing every day.

I said, “You are a member of a certain society. You are a Jew living in Israel. What makes you different from another people? What makes you different from a Russian, from an American, from an Arab? Just because you are born in a different area geographically, you are different. You have a certain culture which you absorbed from the very day you were born.

“It is your Country”

“How do you absorb it? Through your parents, teachers, environment, school, street, everywhere. Everything you hear and practice through your childhood until you are grown up, you can call culture. And culture is based on so many things. Without electronics, there are all these elemental things before electronics that you are so happy with. You can read literature. You read poetry. You read the Bible. You come to know the history of your people. You are a part of this. The long history of a certain kind of people. You have to find something, and what do you find? Here you are sitting in a country and someone wants to kick you out of your country. It is your country.

...OR HISTORY

Reprinted from
"World Coins"



"Why is it your country? Why isn't the whole world your country? You are a part of a certain nation. How do you know this? Who teaches you? Where do you get it from?"

Your Heritage and Electronics

Then I explained to him what it means to be a part of history of people. What does it mean to be a nation of heritage? What does it mean to be part of a continuous story of people of a nation?

Then only after giving him this whole story of his being an individual among the general public where he used to live, did he forget about the electronics and put in the right place this story about coins.

About the Author

Meshorer, 36, was born in Jerusalem. As a child he picked coins out of the garden "like mushrooms — one every five seconds."

His sense of history through numismatics, and Biblical ties, caused him to pursue studies in this field at the University of London, where he wrote his PhD thesis on Nabataean coinage, and used the resources of the British museum.

As curator of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, he examines all coins found in Israel. His wife Adaya (Jewel of God) also works in the Israel Museum, and has helped piece the Dead Sea scrolls together. They have three children.

So I am serving one part, one point of view, one phase of the research of history. I supply the historian. I supply the one who is studying the heritage and history of the Jewish nation — all of Palestine in general. Gaining information to be able to better reconstruct history. Details in history, personalities in history and so forth. To explain all kinds of missing details in history.

Researching History

I explained to him that the only thing man cannot escape is history. Whoever he is, whatever he does, wherever he is, he is a part of history. That electronics is one point of view of history.

In the 19th century there were no electronics and the world lived very nicely. In the human time history there are so many milleniums, so many thousands of years, and only 30 years of electronics and everyone is alive. But every day, every moment, everyone is practicing history.

Research of numismatics is a research of history, and of course, we are all discussing this problem. I tried to show him the importance of numismatics, the research of numismatics is essential to the research of history which is actually a part of our life. At the end, of course, he was kind enough to thank me and say, "I didn't think of it in this direction."

I am just trying to give you practical examples as to how coins tell the reconstruction of history.

INSLI HOLDS CHANUKAH PARTY—ISSUES MEDAL

The Israel Numismatic Society of Long Island Chanukah party, was also celebration of the group's Seventh Anniversary. An elaborate Smorgesbord and sit down luncheon was enjoyed by the members, friends, and families who were entertained with music for dancing and listening pleasure. Door prizes were donated by the AINA which was represented by Morris Bram.

Each guest was presented with a medal especially prepared for the occasion. Designed by Faye Stern, Second Vice President, it honors the seventh anniversary of the Club and the American Bicentennial Year. It has been submitted for inclusion in the *American Numismatic Association* catalogue of numismatic tributes to the bicentennial celebration commissioned by Congress. The medal is gold-plated cast pewter, antiqued, 51mm in diameter.

The theme, "shared values" shows the universal interests and goals; specifically, peace, liberty, justice, and, the dignity of man. The Shield of David serves as a lattice for the dove of peace and the eternal light, the Torah scrolls, the ARBA symbol, and the Liberty Bell; and the thematic inscriptions. Also shown are the dates 1776-1976. The reverse shows a large number SEVEN with the name of the Society to the left, and a

rising sun with seven rays to the right. Directly below, are the mountains of Negev, and the water of the Dead Sea. Below the mountains is an outline map of Long Island, and below that, the dates 1969 and 1976 separated by the Hebrew letter "zion", which also signifies seven in Hebrew.

Exactly 150 have been produced. With the exception of a small reserve for presentation purposes, all remaining medals are offered to the public for sale on a first-come, first-served basis. The price is \$6.00 prepaid.

Interested parties may order from INSLI, P.O. Box 202, Syosset, New York 11791. The molds will be destroyed at a public ceremony.

A highlight of the party was the exhibit of a one pruta coin marked SPECIMEN, struck in aluminum. This coin, not previously seen here, is thought to have a history similar to the more familiar 25 pruta coins marked SPECIMEN (of which approximately one dozen pieces are known). "Kagan" also lists a 10 pruta 1952 SPECIMEN coin. The one pruta piece does not yet appear in the catalog.—Emanuel J. Rubin, M.D. and Morton J. Zerder.



One-prutah "Specimen" coin shown at INSLI party.



Chanukah party celebrants and INSLI Medal designed by Stern.

JERUSALEM MARCH MEDAL OF 1976



Certificate awarded to marchers.



Blue/white ribbon on bronze-color metal medal.

LETTER FROM JERUSALEM

Ephrayim Levy,
Jerusalem, ISRAEL.

October 10, 1976

Mr. Morris Bram, (President,)
American Israel Numismatic Association,
New York, U.S.A.

Dear Morris,

Thank you very much for the "Shekels" you keep sending me regularly. Each Shekel brings back memories from a wonderful period of association with you and the many friends of the A.I.N.A. Board of Directors and clubs throughout the country.

We have just returned from a vacation in Spain visiting the cities of Cordova, Granada, Seville and others which we enjoyed very much. Of special interest were the restored synagogues which brought to mind the flourishing culture of our brethren which came to a tragic end and their expulsion by the Inquisition towards the end of the fifteenth century.

Now I come to my traditional custom of sending you the annual medal and certificate that was awarded this year to each participant of the Jerusalem March. The marchers had to cover a stretch of about 25 kilometre which started from two routes towards Jerusalem. One way was along the beautiful highway from Shaar Hagai and the other from Gush Etzion south of Jerusalem towards the centre of the city.

I hope you will enjoy the medal of 1976 and add it to your beautiful collection. I am also sending you a map which will help you to follow the routes of the marchers.

Malca and I wish you, your family as well as your Numismatic associates a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely,
EPHRAIM LEVY

An Unknown Charity Scrip — Paris 1917.

By FRANZ FRANKL

War and hunger go hand in hand. For the modern-day American it is hard to believe that "Gay Paris" suffered from hunger in 1917. The City was not encircled; the roads to the South and the West were secure, but hunger was ravishing!

Maison de Rothschild Frères issued dated scrips for free meals. The scrips were printed (French) on thin grey cardboard, with black borders, 117 x 70 mm; they read

*GOOD for ONE MEAL to be taken
home, donated by Messrs. De Rothschild brothers
Distribution: 3 Rue Charles Baudelaire (12th District)
from 17-19 hours
"Valid only Two days after dated"
PLEASE BRING YOUR UTENSILS.*

In the lower Right (not reproducible in the photograph) is the imprinted Seal of the Bank of Rothschild, the initials RF in the center [somehow resembling the initials of the official RF (Republique Française.)]. Below the black border print: CHAIX, January 27, 1917 is imprinted.

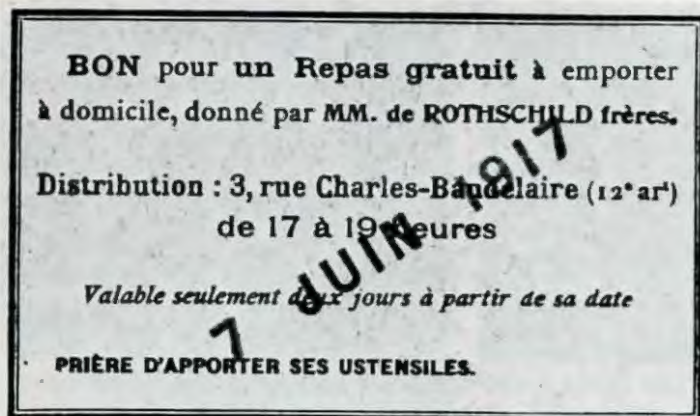
The scrip in the author's collection has the date 7 June 1917, overprinted in red diagonally across the face.

What makes the scrip unusual is the restricted dating: It is valid for TWO DAYS. Apparently food was so scarce that the meals were prepared according to the numbers of scrips issued for a certain date. It is presumed that leftovers were given to an orphanage or hospital supported by the Brothers Rothschild.

Judaic Charity Tokens were generally issued in countries with a concentration of poor people (Palestine, Syria). This is the first instance the author knows of a Food Scrip issued in one of the "Glamour Capitals" in the West. There are two other Judaic Food Scrips from the period of World War I. The Ship "Vulcan" Scrip 1914 (*Shekel*, Vol. VIII, No. 4) and the "Wallach Matzoh" Scrip (*Shekel*, Vol. VIII, No. 3).

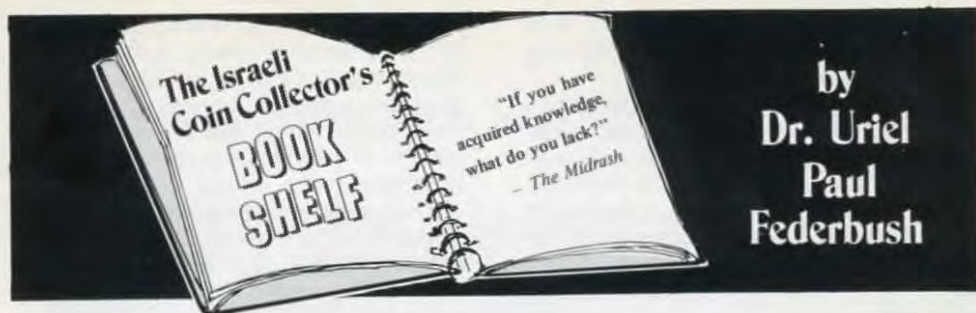
Are there others?

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Thin grey cardboard scrip issued in Paris, 1917.

Collection of Franz Frankl



In these reviews, an endeavor is made to continue a survey of books dealing with ancient Jewish numismatics. One of the books reaches as far back as 1864, while the latest was published in 1976. These books are readily available today, and should grace the numismatic library of all those interested in the study of both ancient and modern Jewish coins.

History of Jewish Coinage and of Money in the Old and New Testament by Frederic W. Madden (San Diego: Pegasus Publ. House, 1967) hard cover, 350p.

This is a reprint of the 1864 edition. Although published over one hundred years ago, it is still a respected book. Some changes have been incorporated to make the book an easier reference. Hebrew inscriptions are reproduced next to the respective coins. Also, "R" numbers from Reifenberg's book have been added. Madden covers the coins of the Hasmonean and Herodian dynasties; the Procurators; coins of the First and Second Revolt; as well as Imperial Colonial (*Judaea Capta*) coins struck at Jerusalem.

The entire subject is covered in a most scholarly manner, with references going back to the *Talmud*, and to Jewish commentators back to the ninth century. An extensive comparative table with side by side illustrations of the modern Hebrew alphabet to eleven other ancient scripts is included. There are general introductory chapters dealing with early use of silver, and the first money coined.

The illustrations, which are wood-cuts, are absolutely excellent and alone worth the price of the book. They are not relegated to plates in the back, but are used throughout to illustrate the text.

The historical writing is good, although some of it has been supplanted by more

recent research. Useful chronological tables are also included to describe the coins of the different periods.

The book closes with chapters on Greek and Roman money of the New Testament; a chapter on ancient weights; and one on ancient writing and development of the alphabet. An appendix concludes the book dealing with Talmudic writings on the coinage of the First and Second Revolts; and another dealing with counterfeit Jewish coins.

History Of Jewish Coinage and of Money in the Old and New Testament by Frederic W. Madden (New York: Ktav Publishing House, 1967) Hard cover, 350 p.

This is another reprint of the 1864 edition. It forms one of the series of *The Library of Biblical Studies*, edited by Harry M. Orlinsky of the Hebrew Union College. It is identical to the one discussed above, but for the very important addition of a "Prolegomenon" by Michael Avi-Yonah, late professor of archeology at the Hebrew University, one of the most prominent men in the field.

Avi-Yonah, in his introduction, shows how time and further study have treated Madden's theses. He illustrates areas that Madden was unaware of, and where present views diverge from previous ones. The Persian period *Yehud* coins are covered, which Madden was unfamiliar with. Also, Madden's attribution of the *Shekels* to Simon is no longer accepted. Madden also attributed the coin of Antigonus Mattathiah depicting the Menorah, to be an Arabic coin of Aelia Capitolina. Other misattributions are also pointed out by Avi-Yonah. However, he also states that much of Madden's writing has stood the test of time remarkably well.

Coins of the Land of Israel by Arie Kindler (Jerusalem: Keter Publishing House, 1974). Hard cover, 138 p.

This is actually a catalogue of the collection of the Bank of Israel. As such, it can serve as a milestone of its genre. It was published three years earlier in Hebrew.

The foreword describes the gathering of the collection by Israel's central bank, the issuing authority of modern Jewish coinage. It serves to emphasize the continuity of Jewish history.

In the author's preface he points out that the coins are listed in chronological order, based on the results of the most recent studies. The obverse ("head") of the coin is determined to be that side mentioning the issuing authority. For the bilingual coins, it is that side which has the Hebrew legend.

The photo illustrations are excellent, and are adjacent to their descriptions. The Hebrew legends are clearly reproduced both in ancient and modern script. Each coin further has its own bibliography allowing for easy further study and research. All the dynasties and periods are covered, as well as some interesting additions such as the denarius of Aelius Plautius (p.22). Well designed tables describing the chronology of coins of the Bar Kokhba (Second) Revolt are most instructive. This generally excellent book ends with sections on *Judaea Capta* and City coins.

Guide To Ancient Jewish Coins by David Hendlin (New York: Attic Books, 1976) 134p. + 9 plates.

This is the most recent book on the subject. It makes no claim to completeness, but is an excellent guide and overview of the period. In a sense it is an ongoing work, as the author is a neighboring columnist, writing about these coins in this very publication.

In the introduction the author touches upon early biblical mention of money, and the earliest coinage. The method of minting of early Jewish coins is described, and resulting "errors" are mentioned. As an aid to the reader, the coins are also priced by dealer Herb Kreindler, a welcome departure for such books.

The layout and organization of the book is excellent. The clear drawings (taken from Madden, DeSaulcy, and newly done) are placed above the coin descriptions in

the text. In the case of very small coins, the size is indicated in outline, with the drawings enlarged. In addition, there are photographic plates at the end of the book showing the actual coins. Thus the best features of previous works have been incorporated to the benefit of the reader.

The inscriptions are clearly reproduced, and attributions made by Meshorer numbers. Interesting comments are often inserted following the coin descriptions.

All dynasties and periods are covered, with accompanying well-written historical summaries. Two interesting coins usually not covered, are described on p. 78. The last coins described are the *Judaea Capta* ones, as well as those issued by the cities of ancient Israel. An absorbing description of the cities accompanies the coins.

Preceding the plates, there are a number of very useful guides. A conversion table from "M" (Meshorer) to "R" (Reifenberg) numbers is included. An extensive bibliography is listed; and many Greek and Roman legends are translated. There are tables of the Hebrew and Greek alphabets and their equivalents; as well as a map and list of Jewish cities that struck coins during the Roman period.

This is generally a useful and excellent book, to be recommended to both neophyte and advanced collectors and students.

ANCIENT COINS (Cont.)

from Mattathias Antigonus, last of the Hasmonean kings.)

The coins of the First Jewish War Against Rome are dated from "Year One" through "Year Five" which correspond to the five years of the war 66 through 70 C.E. The coins of the first year are quite rare, and those of the fifth year are excessively rare, with only about a dozen of them known.

During the Bar Kochba war (132-135 C.E.) the coins were dated "Year One" and "Year Two." A large number of the Bar Kochba coins are not dated, but evidence from the study of die combinations, breaks and wear shows that the undated coins were undoubtedly issued during the third and final year of the war, 134-135 C.E.

(David Hendin will answer your questions on ancient coins. If your question is about a specific coin, send a rubbing or a photograph. DO NOT send actual coins.)

PARENTS OF "OPERATION JONATHAN" HERO HONORED



Mrs. B. Z. Netanyahu, mother of the late Col. Jonathan Netanyahu, holding the three varieties of the new State Medal commemorating the rescue of the hostages of Uganda. The award was made in a solemn ceremony, by the Minister of Defense, Mr. Shimon Peres (second from right) and the Commander in Chief of Israel's Defence Forces, General Mordechai Gur (first on right). Professor B. Z. Netanyahu, Jonathan's father (second from left) received the medals encased in an olivewood box, jointly with Mrs. Netanyahu. Mr. Yitzhak Avni, Director General of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation is at the far left.

Read the complete, stirring

day-by-day saga of Entebbe

in this issue of The Shekel

starting on page 3.



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